

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 and 30-32 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended, and new claims 33 and 34 have been added. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to require that the appetite of the mammal needs to be decreased. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification (for example, generally in the specification on page 1, lines 5 and 14-15; page 3, lines 2-7; page 15, lines 26-33; and page 18, lines 18-20). Claim 7 has also been amended to delete the term "relative." Support for new claims 33 and 34 can be found in original claims 1 and 7 and in the specification at page 1, lines 3-6; page 2, lines 17-21; page 15, lines 18-21; page 16, lines 28-30; page 17, lines 14-19 and 23-25; and on page 18, lines 18-30. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

**1. Rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph**

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 1-11 and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office states that the specification and claims as originally filed fail to provide adequate written description for the limitation directed to the step of identifying an overweight or obese mammal.

Applicants respectfully disagree, as the instant specification sufficiently describes the step of identifying an

obese or overweight mammal such that one skilled in the art could reasonably conclude that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention.

M.P.E.P. 2163 states that the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 requires that the "specification shall contain a written description of the invention...To satisfy the written description requirement, a patent specification must describe the claimed invention in sufficient detail that one skilled in the art can reasonably conclude that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention." Furthermore, subject matter that is conventional or well known to one of ordinary skill in the art need not be disclosed in detail. Specifically, if a skilled artisan would have understood the inventor to be in possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing, even if every nuance of the claims is not explicitly described in the specification, then the adequate description requirement is met.<sup>1</sup>

In the present case, support for the step of identifying an obese or overweight mammal can be found in the specification on page 1, lines 3-6 and page 2, lines 17-21, in which it is specifically noted that the disclosed methods are directed to treating obesity and conditions of overweight mammals, especially the pediatric population. As defined by Merriam-Webster, to "treat" refers to caring for or dealing with

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., *Hybritech Inc. v. Monoclonal Antibodies, Inc.*, 802 F.2d 1367, 1384 (Fed. Cir. 1986); *Vas-Cath, Inc. v. Mahurkar*, 935 F.2d 1555, 1563 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *Martin v. Johnson*, 454 F.2d 746, 751, 172 USPQ 391, 395 (CCPA 1972).

medically or surgically, such as to treat a disease.<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, in order to care for or deal with a condition such as obesity and conditions of overweight, the obesity and conditions of overweight must be identified.

Furthermore, suitable means for identifying an obese or overweight mammal are adequately described in the specification (particularly, on page 2, lines 14-22), in which overweight is defined as having a BMI of between 25 and 29.9, and obesity is defined as a BMI of greater than 30.

The Office has stated that the administration of a long-chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid to an obese or overweight mammal does not necessarily imply that such an overweight or obese mammal was particularly identified as such prior to administration, since "it would be possible to administer the claimed composition to a previously identified or overtly obviously overweight or obese patient without performing the steps as instantly claimed."<sup>3</sup> Applicants respectfully disagree. In order to treat a condition such as obesity or conditions of being overweight, there must first be some recognition that conditions of obesity or overweight are present in the mammal to be treated. Without such a recognition, there would be no reason to treat the mammal for obesity or overweight. Thus, contrary to the Office's assertion, the long-chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid would not be administered to an obese or overweight mammal in order to treat obesity or overweight in

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<sup>2</sup> See Merriam-Webster's on-line dictionary, available at <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/treat>.

the mammal without first identifying that the mammal is obese or overweight. In this regard, applicants note that the illustrating examples provided by the Office (e.g., administering the long-chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid to a previously identified or overtly obvious overweight or obese patient)<sup>6</sup> inherently involve a recognition that the mammal is obese or overweight, and thus inherently involve identifying an obese or overweight mammal.

Additionally, as previously discussed, the specification clearly describes administering the long-chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid to an obese or overweight mammal in order to treat obesity or overweight in the mammals. Since treating a condition such as obesity or conditions of overweight in mammals that are obese or overweight inherently involves identification of an obese or overweight mammal, applicants submit that the claimed step of "identifying an obese or overweight mammal" is adequately supported by the specification.

The Office has also stated that the specific disclosure of a single parameter for identifying an overweight or obese patient (i.e., body mass index (BMI)) is not supportive of the broader concept of identifying an overweight or obese patient via any identification means. Applicants respectfully disagree. As noted above, subject matter that is conventional or well known to one of ordinary skill in the art need not be disclosed in detail in order to satisfy the written description

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<sup>3</sup> See Office action at p. 3.

<sup>4</sup> See *id.* at line 20.

requirement. Rather, if a skilled artisan would have understood the inventor to be in possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing, even if every nuance of the claims is not explicitly described in the specification, the adequate description requirement is met.<sup>5</sup>

Thus, applicants are not required to explicitly set forth in the specification every means by which an overweight or obese patient may be identified in order to satisfy the written description requirement, particularly if such other methods are commonly known in the art. In the present case, applicants submit that one skilled in the art would readily be able to identify methods other than body mass index which may be used to identify whether or not a person is obese or overweight. In support of this, applicants are submitting in a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith, a printout from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website which defines obesity and overweight.<sup>6</sup> Specifically, the CDC has defined obesity and overweight in terms of body mass index, but has also listed other methods which may be used to estimate body fat and body fat distribution, such as skinfold thickness and waist circumference, calculation of waist-to-hip circumference ratios, and techniques such as ultrasound, computed tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

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<sup>5</sup> See, *supra* n.1.

<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/obesity/defining.htm>.

Based on the foregoing, the limitation of claims 1-11 and 30-32 are adequately described by the instant specification and accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

**2. Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph**

Claims 1-11 and 30-32

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 1-11 and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Office has stated that claims 1 and 7 are directed to a "method for decreasing the appetite of an overweight or obese mammal," but it is not clear whether the overweight or obese subject is actually in need of appetite reduction or whether the method is intended for practice in any overweight or obese patient who may or may not be in need of appetite reduction.

As noted above, independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to require that the appetite of the mammal needs to be decreased. Thus, the mammal in amended claims 1 and 7 is one whose appetite needs to be decreased. In light of these amendments, applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1-11 and 30-32 under §112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Claims 7-9

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Office has stated that it is unclear what is meant by the phrase "in relative amounts effective to decrease the appetite of said mammal" in claim 7, as the claims fail to describe what the amounts are relative to (e.g., to one another or to the amount that would be required if only one agent were administered).

As noted above, claim 7 has been amended to delete the term "relative." As such, applicants submit that this rejection of claim 7 under §112, second paragraph is moot and should be withdrawn.

**3. Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Phinney, et al. and Visser, et al.**

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Phinney, et al. (WO 03/043570) in view of Visser, et al. ("Elevated C-Reactive Protein Levels in Overweight and Obese Adults", Journal of the American Medical Association, 1999; 282:2131-215).

Claim 1, as amended herein, is directed to a method for decreasing the appetite of an obese or overweight mammal comprising: identifying an obese or overweight mammal; and enterally administering at a time prior to or in conjunction

with an appetite-impacting stimulus to said mammal an amount of long-chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid effective to decrease the appetite of said mammal, wherein the polyunsaturated fatty acid has 20 or more carbon atoms, and wherein the polyunsaturated fatty acid is administered in the form of a triacylglycerol to treat obesity or overweight in mammals that are obese or overweight, and wherein the appetite of the mammal needs to be decreased.

Phinney, et al. disclose formulations and methods for the treatment and/or amelioration of symptoms of inflammatory conditions and associated systemic inflammatory responses. Phinney, et al. disclose that elevated levels of C-reactive protein (CRP) have been associated with these various inflammatory conditions. The formulations comprise a non-alpha tocopherol (especially gamma-, beta-, or delta-tocopherol) and one or more of an omega-3 fatty acid, such as docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) or a flavonoid.

Significantly, Phinney, et al. fail to disclose a method of enterally administering at a time prior to or in conjunction with an appetite-impacting stimulus to said mammal an amount of long-chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid effective to decrease the appetite of said mammal, wherein the appetite of said mammal needs to be decreased. More particularly, **nowhere is there any mention of an appetite-impacting stimulus** in the Phinney, et al. reference.



Recognizing that the Phinney, et al. reference fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of Applicants' claimed invention, the Office cites the Visser, et al. reference for combination with Phinney, et al. Specifically, Visser, et al. is cited for its disclosure of using the guideline parameter of body mass index to identify patients that are overweight or obese and have the C-reactive protein biomarker.

In order for the Office to show a *prima facie* case of obviousness, M.P.E.P. §2142 requires a clear articulation of the reasons why the claimed invention would have been obvious. Specifically, the Supreme Court in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 127 S.Ct. 1727, 82 USPQ2d 1385, 1396 (2007) noted that the burden lies initially with the Office to provide an explicit analysis supporting a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103. "[R]ejections on obviousness cannot be sustained with mere conclusory statements; instead, there must be some **articulated reasoning** with some **rational underpinning** to support the legal conclusion of obviousness." The Court in KSR International further identified a number of rationales to support a conclusion of obviousness which are consistent with the proper "functional approach" to the determination of obviousness as laid down in Graham v. John Deere Co. (383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966)). Specifically, as previously required by the TSM (teaching, suggestion, motivation) approach to obviousness, one exemplary rationale indicated requires some teaching, suggestion, or motivation in the prior art references that would have led one of ordinary skill to modify/combine the prior art references to arrive at the claimed invention. Specifically, to

reject a claim based on this rationale, the Office must articulate the following: (1) a finding that there was some teaching, suggestion, or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the references or to combine reference teachings to arrive at each and every limitation of the claimed invention; (2) a finding that there was reasonable expectation of success; and (3) whatever additional findings based on the Graham factual inquiries may be necessary, in view of the facts of the case under consideration, to explain a conclusion of obviousness. The Office has failed to meet its burden under number (1) above, as the combined reference teachings fail to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1, and further, there is no apparent reason for one skilled in the art to combine the reference teachings to arrive at each and every limitation. It simply would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to arrive at Applicants' claimed combinations.

Specifically, as noted above, nowhere in the cited references (or in the knowledge available to one skilled in the art) is there an apparent reason to combine or modify the references to arrive at the claimed limitation of enterally administering **at the time prior to or in conjunction with an appetite-impacting stimulus** to an obese or overweight mammal an amount of long-chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid effective to **decrease the appetite of said mammal and treat the obesity or conditions of overweight**, wherein the appetite of the mammal needs to be decreased. At best, Visser, et al. disclose that

individuals who are obese and/or overweight, as defined using the BMI scale were slightly more likely to have elevated CRP levels,<sup>7</sup> and further, Visser, et al. and Phinney, et al. recognize that elevated CRP levels are related to systemic inflammatory conditions and associated disorders. Further, Phinney, et al. teach administering a composition comprising non-alpha tocopherol and one or more of an omega-3 fatty acid or flavonoid to treat or ameliorate the various inflammatory conditions. No where, however, is there any suggestion that the composition of Phinney, et al. should be administered at the time prior to or in conjunction with an appetite-impacting stimulus which can increase feed intake by the individual, to decrease appetite to treat obesity and/or conditions of overweight. This is a requirement of Applicants' claimed invention.

In the Response to Arguments section of the current Office action, the Office contends that Phinney, et al. meet the limitation directed to "at a time prior to or in conjunction with an appetite-impacting stimulus" because the human body is a dynamic entity and is constantly in a state of growth and change throughout infancy, adolescence or adulthood such that growth of the human body in any of these three stages would necessarily be present at any time the composition was administered. The Office further states that growth periods are considered to be a period of stress on the human body and require proper nutrition and

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<sup>7</sup> As taught on page 2133 of Visser, et al., obese men were 2.13 times more likely and obese women 6.21 times more likely to have elevated CRP levels compared with their normal-weight counterparts.

health in order to achieve growth, and thus fall within the scope of the term "appetite-impacting stimulus." Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office's position.

Specifically, as defined in the instant Specification, an "appetite-impacting stimulus" is a stressor or stimulus that has the effect of increasing food intake (i.e., eliciting an appetitive response). Examples provided include irregular meals, sleep deprivation, and parenteral expectations to excel in school and/or sports.<sup>8</sup> Particularly, it is beneficial to administer the long-chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid prior to or in conjunction with the stimulus so as to decrease the appetite of an obese or overweight mammal at the time of or prior to the stimulus which has the effect of increasing food intake; that is, the long-chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid is to be administered at the time of or prior to when it is most effective.

It is thus clear from the description in the specification that an "appetite-impacting stimulus" is not a general condition which is present in an individual at all times, as suggested by the Office. If such a stimulus were with an individual continuously, as suggested by the Office, then such an individual would always be hungry and, thus, have a continuous appetite for food. This is clearly not the case. As such, applicants submit that there is no disclosure or suggestion in either Phinney, et al. or Vissier, et al. of administering the formulation of Phinney, et al. to an obese or overweight mammal

"at a time prior to or in conjunction with an appetite-impacting stimulus."

Additionally, as noted above, there is no mention anywhere in Phinney, et al. or Visser, et al. of using the formulations disclosed in Phinney, et al. to decrease the appetite of overweight or obese mammals, wherein the appetite of the mammal needs to be decreased. Rather, the formulations and methods of Phinney, et al. are for the treatment and/or amelioration of symptoms of inflammatory conditions (e.g., conditions which are associated with an elevated level of C-reactive protein). While Visser, et al. recognize that overweight or obese people may also have the C-reactive protein biomarker, there is nothing in the references (alone, or in combination) to teach or suggest that administering the formulation of Phinney, et al. will affect the appetite of obese or overweight mammals whose appetite needs to be decreased, or would otherwise be effective in the treatment of obesity or overweight conditions.

In this regard, the Office has stated that the suggestion in Phinney, et al. to use the formulations described therein for treating patients exhibiting high levels of C-reactive protein and conditions that are characterized by elevation of C-reactive protein is a clear suggestion to use the formulations in any subpopulation of patients with elevated C-reactive protein, such as those patients suffering from obesity. The Office concludes that the practice of administering the non-alpha tocopherol-DHA therapy of Phinney, et al. for the general purpose of reducing

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<sup>8</sup> Specification at page 18, lines 18-30.

C-reactive protein to treat conditions characterized by elevation of C-reactive protein would also circumscribe its practice in an obese patient population that also exhibits elevated C-reactive protein, and thus meets the instantly claimed method steps.

Applicants note, however, that amended claim 1 requires the appetite of the mammal be one which needs to be decreased. However, not all obese or overweight people have an appetite that needs to be decreased. The Office has in fact agreed with this in the current Office action, where it states in making the 112, second paragraph rejection: "it is not clear whether the overweight or obese subject is actually in need of appetite reduction or whether the method is intended for practice in any overweight or obese patient who may or may not be in need of appetite reduction."<sup>9</sup> Thus, the Office is in agreement that not all obese or overweight mammals have an appetite that needs to be decreased. Since, as noted above, there is no disclosure in either of Phinney, et al. or Visser, et al. that the formulations of Phinney, et al. would be effective to decrease appetite, why would one skilled in the art be motivated to modify the method of Phinney, et al. to administer the formulations described therein at a time prior to or in conjunction with an appetite-impacting stimulus to decrease appetite of an obese or overweight mammal whose appetite needs to be decreased, as required in the method of Applicants' amended claim 1? There is simply no apparent reason to do so.

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<sup>9</sup> See Office action at p. 5, lines 2-4 (emphasis added).

Accordingly, there is no articulated reason to combine or modify the teachings of the cited references to arrive at each and every limitation of Applicants' claim 1. As such, claim 1 cannot be said to be obvious in view of the cited references.

As claims 2-4, 6, and 30-32 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, claims 2-4, 6, and 30-32 are patentable for the same reasons as claim 1.

New claim 33 is similar to claim 1, except does not require the step of identifying an obese or overweight mammal. New claim 33 is patentable over the cited references for the same reasons as set forth above for claim 1.

**4. Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Phinney, et al., Visser, et al., Bogentoft, and The Merck Index**

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 7-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Phinney, et al. in view of Visser, et al. and Bogentoft (WO 87/03198) in further view of The Merck Index (Monograph 972, page 121).

Claim 7, as amended herein, is directed to a method for decreasing the appetite of an overweight or obese mammal comprising: identifying the overweight or obese mammal; and enterally administering at a time prior to or in conjunction with an appetite-impacting stimulus to the mammal an amount of long-chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid and an amount of long-chain n-6 polyunsaturated fatty acid in amounts effective to decrease the appetite of said mammal, wherein the

polyunsaturated fatty acids independently have 20 or more carbon atoms, and wherein the polyunsaturated fatty acids are administered in the form of a triacylglycerol to treat obesity or overweight in mammals that are obese or overweight, and wherein the appetite of the mammal needs to be decreased.

For the reasons discussed above, neither Phinney, et al. nor Visser, et al., alone or in combination, teach or suggest each and every limitation of the claimed invention, and further, there is no apparent reason for combining the reference teachings. Bogentoft and the Merck Index fail to overcome these shortcomings. Particularly, there is simply no reason to modify or combine the references to arrive at each and every limitation of claim 7.

Bogentoft discloses enteric preparations in the forms of capsules, tablets, and microcapsules having an enteric coating resistant to gastric juices that dissolves only in the ileum. These enteric preparations contain a hydrophobic substance in combination with an emulsifier. The hydrophobic substance is thus delivered to the ileum, at which point it interacts with specific ileum receptors to induce satiety (page 1, paragraph 3). The enteric preparation is orally administered in a weight reducing dosage to a human. The hydrophobic substance can be a fatty acid having 6-28 carbon atoms, an ester or a salt thereof, a fatty alcohol having 6-28 carbon atoms or an ester thereof.



The Merck Index discloses the formula and properties for arachidonic acid (AA). Specifically, The Merck Index discloses that AA can occur in depot fats of animals.

Similar to Phinney, et al. and Visser, et al. discussed above, Bogentoft and The Merck Index fail to teach or suggest administering a composition with a long-chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid (as recited in claim 7) and long-chain n-6 polyunsaturated fatty acid prior to or in conjunction with an appetite-impacting stimulus. At best, Bogentoft teach administering their compositions 2-5 hours prior to meal time such that the composition has time to interact with specific ileum receptors to induce satiety to decrease appetite. Nowhere, however, is it taught or suggested that a long-chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid (as recited in claim 7) and long-chain n-6 polyunsaturated fatty acid should be administered prior to a stressor or stimuli that can lead to increased food intake (i.e., appetite-impacting stimulus), such as sleep deprivation and irregular meal times, such as disclosed in Applicants' specification and claimed in claim 7. The composition of Bogentoft is designed to be used in a completely different manner to treat obesity and conditions of overweight. Thus, the combination of Phinney, Visser, et al., Bogentoft, and The Merck Index fail to disclose or suggest administering an amount of a long-chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid, as set forth in claim 7, and an amount of a long-chain n-6 polyunsaturated fatty acid to an obese or overweight mammal at a time prior to or in conjunction with an appetite-impacting stimulus, as required by claim 7.

In fact, if anything, Bogentoft actually teaches away from applicants' claimed method. The Supreme Court affirmed in the recently issued *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S.Ct. 1727, 1740 (2007), 82 USPQ2d 1385, the holding of *United States v. Adams*, 383 U.S. 39, 51-52 (1996), stating:

The Court relied on the corollary principle that when the prior art teaches away from combining certain known elements, discovery of a successful means of combining them is more likely to be nonobvious.

In the instant case, Bogentoft actually teaches away from decreasing the appetite of an overweight or obese mammal by enterally administering an amount of a long-chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid, as set forth in claim 7, and an amount of a long-chain n-6 polyunsaturated fatty acid, as required by applicants' claim 7. In particular, Bogentoft states:

It has now surprisingly turned out that it is possible to effect a reduced food intake by bringing unabsorbed food and especially hydrofobic [sic] substances therein into contact with the distal part of the small intestine, that is ileum, where a physiologically mediated mechanism having this effect is started. Tests have shown that ileal infusion of a fat emulsion in connection with a meal brings about that a smaller amount of food is ingested than what should otherwise be the case.<sup>10</sup>

By stating that the method disclosed therein results in a smaller amount of food being ingested "than what should otherwise be the case," Bogentoft suggests that methods of

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<sup>10</sup> See Bogentoft at p. 2, lines 18-25 (emphasis added).

ingestion other than the delivery of fat directly to the ileum would not result in the food intake reduction that is seen with Bogentoft's method.

Additionally, use of the term "otherwise" by Bogentoft implies regular oral administration, not direct delivery of fat to the ileum via enteric coated formulations, as used in Bogentoft's method. In other words, Bogentoft implies that a similar ingestion of fat by regular administration will not be useful in reducing food intake, but rather that one would need to deliver the fat directly to the ileum to achieve this effect.

To the contrary, however, applicants have shown that regular administration of "fat," in the form of long-chain n-3 and n-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids, can be useful in decreasing appetite of overweight or obese mammals, provided that the polyunsaturated fatty acids independently have 20 or more carbon atoms and are administered in the form of a triacylglycerol. Thus, applicants have demonstrated that by selecting which fatty acids to deliver, the need for direct ileum delivery of fat to achieve the desired effect of appetite reduction, such as disclosed in Bogentoft, is negated.

Additionally, applicants submit that it would not have been obvious for one skilled in the art to combine the formulations of Phinney, et al. with the fatty acids disclosed in Bogentoft. Although the formulations of Phinney, et al. and the fatty acids of Bogentoft may both be administered to obese or overweight people, these references are concerned with entirely different

problems. Specifically, Phinney, et al. teach their composition to have efficacy in the treatment and/or amelioration of symptoms of inflammatory conditions, e.g., by reducing elevated levels of C-reactive protein in patients that suffer from such elevated levels. In contrast, the fatty acids of Bogentoft are used in an enteric preparation for the treatment of obesity, for example, to reduce weight. None of the cited references suggest that the fatty acids of Bogentoft would be effective in treating or ameliorating the symptoms of inflammatory conditions. Likewise, none of the cited references suggest that the formulations of Phinney, et al. would be effective in treating obesity or overweight. Why then would one skilled in the art be motivated to administer to a mammal a formulation for treating or ameliorating inflammation in combination with a fatty acid which is used to reduce weight? There is simply no apparent reason to make such a combination. With all due respect, it appears that the Office has merely used hindsight reasoning in combining these references, which has been specifically instructed against by the Federal Circuit.

Furthermore, applicants note that the only one of the cited references which discloses methods for treating obesity is Bogentoft. As further discussed in the Amendment and Response After RCE submitted August 21, 2008, while Bogentoft state that its hydrophobic substance can be a fatty acid having 6-28 carbon atoms, Bogentoft actually only disclose and enable fatty acids having up to 18 carbon atoms. The fatty acid can be saturated or unsaturated, and have a branched or a straight chain. The fatty acids include lauric acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid,

oleic acid, ricinoleic acid, linoleic acid, and linolenic acid. Accordingly, Bogentoft fails to disclose administering an amount of long chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid, wherein the long chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid has 20 or more carbon atoms, effective in decreasing the appetite of an obese or overweight mammal. Specifically, as described in the instant specification, and as required in amended claim 7, "long chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid" refers to fatty acids having 20 or more carbons and having a double bond at the third carbon (see Specification at page 16, line 29 through page 17, line 7). Furthermore, the only omega-3 fatty acids listed as suitable for the composition of Phinney, et al. include long chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids such as docosaheptaenoic acid, having 22 carbons, and eicosapentaenoic acid, having 20 carbons.

As no where is it taught or suggested in Bogentoft to administer a long chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid having 20 or more carbon atoms as its hydrophobic substance to be used in the enteric preparation administered for weight loss, Applicants respectfully assert that there is simply no reason for combining the composition of Bogentoft with that of Phinney, et al. In other words, there is no apparent reason to administer long-chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid having 20 or more carbon atoms to a mammal at a time prior to or in conjunction with an appetite-impacting stimulus to decrease the appetite of the mammal. Furthermore, why would one skilled in the art combine the compositions of Bogentoft and Phinney, et al., when each provides ample examples of fatty acids for use in their respective compositions, particularly, when the composition of

Phinney, et al. already provides satisfactory fatty acids, all of which have 20 or more carbon atoms, for treating elevated CRP levels (which may or may not include individuals that are obese or overweight). There simply is no apparent reason to do so.

As the cited references fail to provide an apparent reason for one skilled in the art to modify or combine the cited references to arrive at the method of amended claim 7, amended claim 7 is patentable over the combination of Phinney, et al., Visser, et al, Bogentoft, and The Merck Index.

Claims 8-9 and 11 depend directly or indirectly from claim 7. As such, claims 8-9 and 11 are patentable over the cited references for the same reasons as claim 7 set forth above, as well as for the additional elements they require.

New claim 34 is similar to claim 7, except does not require the step of identifying an overweight or obese mammal. As such, new claim 34 is patentable over the cited references for the same reasons as set forth above for claim 7.

**CONCLUSION**

In light of the foregoing, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-11 and 30-32 and allowance of all pending claims. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any government fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 01-2384.

Respectfully Submitted,

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